



2007 Annual Awards Program

Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form

Complete this form and attach to your descriptive narrative.

SECTION 1: Information About the Nominated Program

Program Excellence Award Category (select only one)

- Community Health and Safety
- Community Partnership
- Community Sustainability
- Strategic Leadership and Governance

Name of program being nominated: Anoka County 800 Megahertz Public Safety Radio System

Jurisdiction where program originated: Anoka County

Jurisdiction population: 320,803

Please indicate the month and year in which the program you are nominating was fully implemented. (Note: All Program Excellence Award nominations must have been fully implemented by or before January 31, 2006 to be eligible. The start date should not include the initial planning phase.)

Month: October Year: 2005

Name(s) and title(s) of individual(s) who should receive recognition for this award at the ICMA Annual Conference in Pittsburgh/Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, October 2007. (Each individual listed **MUST** be an ICMA member to be recognized.):

Name: Terry L. Johnson

Title: Administrator Jurisdiction: Anoka County

Name: _____

Title: _____ Jurisdiction: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____ Jurisdiction: _____

SECTION 2: Information About the Nominator/Primary Contact

Name of person who should be contacted with questions regarding the nomination:

Dee Ann Guthman

Title of nominator: Assoc. County Administrator Jurisdiction of nominator: Anoka County

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City: Anoka State/Province: MN

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Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

Anoka County 800 Megahertz Public Safety Radio System

A successful collaboration between Anoka County and its municipal partners has led to the completion of a new 14-channel, 800 megahertz public safety radio system. This new system, which became operational in October 2005, has improved emergency communications between the county's 911 Central Communications Department and local police and fire departments. It has resulted in quicker response times and a greatly expanded channel capacity, up from 10 channels under the old system to 15 under the new system. Anoka County is only one of six counties in the state to install an 800 megahertz system.

The new public safety radio system was custom designed for Anoka County to seamlessly integrate into the regional public safety communications system currently in place in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Successful completion of the project required close cooperation between the County and its municipal partners. For example, some city government buildings required updates in order to achieve optimal system operation. In addition, the County worked closely with cities when it became necessary to site radio towers in various communities.

The \$12.5 million project was financed in part by a \$2.5 million federal homeland security grant. The remainder was financed through a \$10 million bond issue authorized by the Minnesota Legislature as part of its homeland security program. New radios purchased as part of the system upgrade were programmed and distributed to all police

and fire departments in the County. The future replacement cost of the radios will be the responsibility of the individual communities.

The system has very successfully met its intended goals of improved coverage, increased capacity, and inter-operability for public safety radio users. The new system enhances Anoka County's capabilities in the event of a disaster or terrorist incident but also improves day to day public safety functions for all local police and fire departments in Anoka County.